REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, and 16-25 are pending in the present application.

The objection to the specification under 35 U.S.C. §132 as introducing new matter is obviated by amendment.

Applicants make no statement in regard to the propriety of this ground of rejection and in no way acquiesce to the same. However, Applicants have amended the specification and Abstract to place these sections into their original form. Accordingly, the new matter rejection is believed to be moot.

Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-9, and 16-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph (written description), is obviated by amendment.

In order to clarify the claimed invention, Applicants wish to note that the inventive flavor precursor compound is selected from mono-sulfide compounds, di-sulfide compounds, and tri-sulfide compounds (see pages 3-14 of the present specification).

The present invention contains two embodiments, which are discussed on page 2, line 18 to page 7, line 10.

The first embodiment is described on page 3, line 3 through page 4, line 2 from the bottom and on page 7, line 11 through page 8, line 13. From these sections, it should be apparent to the skilled artisan that the inventive flavor precursor compounds are all a di-sulfide compounds (see first full paragraph on page 4 and the first full paragraph on page 8).

The second embodiment is described on page 4, last line through page 6, line 2 from the bottom, and page 11, line 11 through page 14, line 5. In the second embodiment, it should be clear that the flavor precursor compounds of the present invention include mono-sulfide compounds, di-sulfide compounds, and tri-sulfide compounds, but do not include tetra-sulfide or higher-order sulfide compounds (see first full paragraph on page 6). For the Examiner's convenience, the relevant section of the specification is reproduced below:

> [T]he second embodiment of the present invention relates to a novel sulfide compound which is an organic compound represented by Formula (2) shown below in which R^1H is a non-volatile compound and R^2H is a volatile compound having in the molecule a furan ring structure (including a structure where part or all of the carbon-carbon double bonds thereof are hydrogenated) or a thiophene ring structure (including a structure where part or all of the carbon-carbon double bonds thereof are hydrogenated), said Formula (2) being:
>
> $$R^1\text{–}(S)_m\text{–}R^2 \qquad (2)$$
>
> wherein m represents an integer of 1 to 3, R^1H represents an organic compound having a structure in which the functional group R^1 is bound to a hydrogen atom and R^2H represents an organic compound having a structure in which the functional group R^2 is bound to a hydrogen atom.
>
> In this connection, the sulfides of the present invention having the structure of a volatile flavor compound which has been imparted with a non-volatile nature are novel compounds, and include monosulfides (when m=1), disulfides (when m=2), and trisulfides (when m=3).

The scope of the inventive flavor precursor compounds may be further understood by reference to the following sections: (a) mono-sulfide compounds, from the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12, and page 12, 4th full paragraph, (b) di-sulfide compounds, from page 12, 1st full paragraph and the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13, and (c) tri-sulfide compounds from page 12, 2nd full paragraph and page 13, 1st full paragraph.

The flavor precursor compounds of the present invention have the structure of a volatile flavor compound which has been imparted with a non-volatile nature by reacting the same with a non-volatile compound. Examples non-volatile compounds include an amino

acid such as alanine for mono-sulfide compounds (paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12), sulfur-containing amino acids and peptides such as cysteine, homocysteine, glutathione, γ-glutamylcysteine, cysteinlglycine and the like mercapto-group containing compounds for disulfide compounds (page 12, 1st full par.), and a disulfide bond-containing amino acid or peptide such as cystine for trisulfide compounds (page 12, 2nd full par.).

In order to make the scope of the present invention clear and to address the Examiner's criticisms, Applicants have amended herein Claims 1, 9, and 18 to remove superfluous phrasing from the claims. In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, it is believed that the claims find full descriptive support in the specification as originally presented.

Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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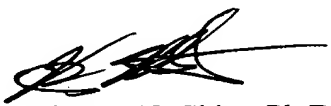

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ABSTRACT

Herein is disclosed a flavor precursor composition comprising as an active ingredient a flavor precursor compound (flavor precursor compound A) in which a volatile flavor compound having a mercapto group in the molecule and a non-volatile compound having a mercapto group in the molecule are bound to form a disulfide structure, or a flavor precursor compound (flavor precursor compound B) which is an organic compound represented by Formula (1) shown below in which R^1H is a non-volatile compound and R^2H is a volatile compound having in the molecule a furan ring structure (including a structure where part or all of the carbon-carbon double bonds thereof are hydrogenated) or a thiophene ring structure (including a structure where part or all of the carbon-carbon double bonds thereof are hydrogenated), said Formula (1) being:

$$R^1\text{–}(S)_n\text{–}R^2 \qquad (1)$$

which composition can preserve, and release, the flavor effectively and can be used in the fields of fragrances and foods.